

Message Text

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44

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ERDA-05 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

EA-07 EUR-12 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NASA-01

NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 PRS-01

OES-03 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 NRC-05 /125 W

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R 051455Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3546

INFO USUN NEW YORK 1186

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PARM

SUBJECT: BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION: IMPLEMENTATION

REFERENCE: 75 STATE 296354

1. PURSUANT TO REFTEL WE ASKED DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON DEC 18 WHAT MEASURES GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA PLANS TO TAKE TO IMPLEMENT THE UNDERTAKINGS SET OUT IN PARA ONE AND ARTICLE IV OF THE BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION. IN REPLY WE WERE INFORMED JAN 5 THAT UNDER THE CONSTITUTION, THE EXECUTIVE HAS THE AUTHORITY TO RATIFY TREATIES AND THAT THEREFORE THE SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION IMPLIES A DOUBLE APPROVAL COMPLYING WITH ALL CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS. THE LEGAL BRANCH OF DFA IS OF THE OPINION THAT NO SPECIFIC FURTHER ACTION IS REQUIRED.

2. C.M. VAN NIEKERK OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, IN GIVING THE FOREGOING REPLY, SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLE INTERNAL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN DFA AND THE DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT IN CONNECTION WITH SAG RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION, AND THAT ALTHOUGH NO

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SPECIFIC LAWS OR REGULATIONS HADN TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, BEEN

INTRODUCED, THE OBJECTIVES WERE WELL UNDERSTOOD AND
ACCEPTED, AND WHAT THE CONVENTION COULD NOW BE CONSIDERED
AS BEING A PART OF THE LAW OF THE LAND.

BOWDLER

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